

TASK FORCE PELICAN

Monday - September 19, 2005

- UPDATE & CORRECTION- 10:30 am -

Louisiana National Guard

- This is **Day 20** since Hurricane Katrina hit.
- Approximately **24,000 military personnel on the ground**
 - Nearly 4,600 Army and Air National Guard soldiers
 - Nearly 20,000 troops from states all over the country
 - Redeployment of troops has begun within the RSOI at Belle Chase
- **LANG primary missions** continue to be saving lives (including providing meals, water, and ice to personnel) enforcing security, evacuating residents, and supporting existing critical infrastructures.
- **Debris removal & route clearing missions continue** in **Washington, St. Tammany, Orleans, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, and Jefferson** parishes.
 - Washington: **95% of schools cleared** of debris in Bogalusa and Enon area
 - St Tammany: **100% of schools cleared** of debris in Covington and Slidell Area

Department of Health & Hospitals

- An updated number of **fatalities** has been announced at **646**.
 - This number will be updated as often as possible when deaths are determined to be storm-related.
- The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Rural Water Association is offering the public **free bacteriological testing** (for total coliforms and *E. coli*) for their **private drinking water wells and systems**.
- If the home owner's water well was flooded, the well must first be disinfected with a chlorine bleach solution, and then thoroughly flushed. Then, a sample of water must be collected for laboratory analysis.

Department of Health & Hospitals (continued)

- To obtain this service you may pick up sampling supplies and receive instructions on disinfecting, flushing and how to collect the sample, from a Sanitarian at the parish health unit.
- Call the following **Parish Health Units** for details:

St. Tammany Parish Health Unit 985-893-6296	Livingston Parish Health Unit 225-686-7017
Washington Parish Health Unit 985-839-5646	Tangipahoa Parish Health Unit 985-543-4175

Department of Labor

- LDOL continues to urge evacuees from the southeast region of state affected by Hurricane Katrina to provide change of address information in order to receive their Unemployment Insurance benefits.
- LDOL has statewide **job fair information** on its website at www.laworks.net
- The **Bogalusa Career and Job Center** has re-opened for Unemployment Insurance claims assistance
 - Washington Workforce Center
438 Avenue B
Bogaloussa, LA
(985) 732-6630
- LDOL has accepted **136,000** claims for Unemployment Insurance benefits from in-state claimants.
 - Another **65,000** have been collect from evacuees in other states

Department of Social Services

- Foster parents are encouraged to call **1-800-259-3428** to report any information they may have on displaced children affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- There are **47,090** displaced citizens in **384** shelters. Another **five** special needs shelters house **289** citizens.
- Any shelters housing 25 displaced citizens or more, and who have not already contacted their parish Offices of Emergency Preparedness, are encouraged to call the shelter hotline at **1-866-310-7617**, in Baton Rouge **225-925-1938**.
- More than **\$107.6 million** in **Disaster Food Stamp Benefits** has been issued to nearly **295,000 households**.

Department of Environmental Quality

- **Monitoring continues** throughout the impacted area.
- Water pumped into Lake Pontchartrain continues to show **elevated levels of bacteria**, but levels of chemical concern have not been found.
- EPA and DEQ continue to take **flood water samples** and sediment samples.
 - **Bacteria levels, not surprisingly, remain high.**
 - Most sediment samples are below the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry health standards.
 - Monitoring data directly around the Murphy Oil spill revealed some slightly elevated levels of benzene and toluene that are associated with an oil leak reported at the facility.
 - Long-term exposure of a year or more would be required for health effects to be of concern at the levels measured.
- **Curbside pickup of white goods and household hazardous waste continues** in St. Tammany and Jefferson parishes.
- Customers returning to the impacted area should be aware that many wastewater treatment plants are down. People need to take proper steps to provide adequate wastewater protection.

Department of Transportation & Development

- From Aug. 31 to Sept. 19, DOTD's call center has taken more than 5,660 calls from the public.
 - A majority of these calls have been inquiries regarding road closure information and updates.

Department of Corrections

- **Summary to date of detainees** brought to temporary holding and detention facility in New Orleans (Angola South):

Total Misdemeanors:	17 males	3 females
Total State Felonies:	232 males	47 females
Total Federal Felonies:	10 males	

*Male detainees are transferred to Elayn Hunt Correctional Center; females to the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. Both are in St. Gabriel, Louisiana.

- DOC, in conjunction with the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, is working to identify more municipal and parish evacuee inmates who may be eligible for release.
 - o We anticipate additional releases this week and will update media as events warrant.
- Those offenders under probation or parole supervision who were forced to evacuate due to Hurricane Katrina are asked to check-in with the Department.
 - Probation and Parole agents are manning the following phone lines:
1-800-869-2909 or (225) 342-0921; (225) 342-0923 or (225) 342-0933

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